

Commissioners in action

by MARIAN MCMAHON

Suburb 9-30-11

LAKE COUNTY - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufdish, Dan Troy and Ray Sines meet at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners' Chambers on the fourth floor of the Lake County Administration Building, 105 Main St., Painesville.

All meetings are open to the public. Requests to address the government board may be made at any board meeting or presented to the Commissioners' Office by calling Amy Elszasz at (440) 350-2753.

There was a meeting Sept. 29. The next meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.

At the Sept. 22 meeting, the following legislation was adopted:

RESOLUTIONS: ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

- Resolution awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$339,133.35 to Huffman Equipment Rental, Inc. for the Leroy Thompson Road Bridge Replacement Project in Leroy Township (LPA PID #85132).

There were eight bids from \$339,133.35 to \$454,105.65 including one which was incomplete. The engineer's estimate was \$406,120.

- Resolution accepting a permanent highway easement for the River and Webb Roads Drainage Improvement Project in Perry Township.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Resolution certifying unpaid sewer and water sums to the lake county auditor.

- Resolution to delete water sums certified to the lake county auditor.

- Resolution increasing appropriations for Madison W WTP Expansion 289S professional services consultants.

The \$275,000 was for additional design services for additional and expanded process tanks and equipment so capacity can be increased to five million gallons per day (MGD) from four MGD, inclusion of sludge thickening facilities and closing the current lime sludge lagoons.

- Resolution authorizing execution of an engineering agreement with GPD Associates for the Lake County Department of Utilities.

It was determined the current waterline in Eastlake that runs along Lakeshore Boulevard was inadequate. The project, at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million, is part of the LCDU infrastructure replacement plan.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving Lake County Department of Job and Family Services vouchers date of warrant Sept. 26, in the amount of \$403,882.19.

The breakdown of charges is: Public Assistance, \$93,707.82; Workforce Investment, \$120,096.45; Child Support Enforcement, \$1,098.09; and Child Welfare, \$188,979.83.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Resolution accepting a FY2010 Border Interoperability Demonstration Project Grant through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$3,998,200 and authorizing execution of a grant agreement, effective through May 31, 2014.

Lake County Emergency Management Director Larry Greene said the grant was a portion of funds allocated to help secure the northern and southern borders of the United States. Lake County was one of seven applicants out of 72 to receive a grant.

"In short, our program, in partnership with the Lucas County Sheriff's Office (along Lake Erie in Northwestern Ohio), will lead the Maritime Domain Awareness Project to enhance regional law enforcement efforts to combat national and transnational criminal activity along Ohio's international border," Greene said. "The project will upgrade existing infrastructure, vessels and the maritime central site to provide seamless voice communications and maritime data sharing."

The grant will help the state work with Michigan and Pennsylvania as well to help with tracking and monitoring of small, noncommercial boats on Lake Erie.

Regarding the county's new radio system, Paul Stefanko, director of the Lake County Telecommunications Department noted the original cost was \$10.6 million, but now there was only about \$880,000 to be paid by the communities in the county after all the grants which were secured.

- Resolution authorizing execution of a radio communications system agreement (Northern Border Initiative Grant) with Motorola Solutions, Inc.

- Resolution accepting the retirement resignation of George Ann Gephart from the Lake County General Communications Department, effective Sept. 30.

- Resolution accepting the retirement resignation of Stephen F. Kertesz from the Lake County Buildings and Grounds Department, effective Sept. 30.

- Resolution authorizing execution of Amendment III to the professional services agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Lake County Emergency Management Agency and Barbara M. Pizzi for Radiological Emergency Response Planning.

- Resolution authorizing the Lake County Board of Commissioners to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Lake County General Health District to administer a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program for the repair and/or replacement of home sewage treatment systems of Lake County Residents.

Commissioner Dan Troy noted the county has had this program available before to help low income residents repair or replace their septic systems.

- Resolution adopting the FY2010-2011 Fair Housing Action Plan for Lake County and authorizing submission of said plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Fair Housing oversees complaints from all protected classes, including race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status and disability, said Marian Norman, HOME program director.

- Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the Lake County Auditor.

- Resolution authorizing acceptance of a VOCA grant in the amount of \$144,723.00 and a SVAA

grant in the amount of \$13,823 from the office of the Ohio Attorney General under the Ohio Crime Victims Assistance Grant Program for the Lake County Prosecutor's Victim Assistance Program, effective Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2012.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving payment of bills as listed on the commissioners' approval journal in the amount of \$974,238.72.

- Resolution approving purchase orders as listed on the commissioners' purchase order approval journal in the amount of \$479,016.06.

- Resolution increasing and decreasing appropriations for various general and non general fund accounts.

- Resolution transferring cash and appropriations within various general and non general fund accounts.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

UTILITIES

It was noted the scrap phone book collections may end up being discontinued by the county in the future since the county must pay for pickup and some Abitibi locations are accepting them and event paying the communities for the scrap paper.

LEGAL

The commissioners and administration gave their thanks and best wishes on her retirement to Pat Nocero of the Lake County Prosecutor's Office for her legal counsel over the years.

NEW BUSINESS

Troy said the County Commissioners Association of Ohio met and was warned that although the state passed a two-year budget, Gov. John Kasich's administration seemed to be recommending more changes in the second year of the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kirtland resident Arzella Melnyk asked the commissioners to request immigration status be verified before anyone received benefits from Community Development Block Grant funds.

"One reason that can't be added is these are federal funds and they have criteria to follow in taking applications," said Board President Ray Sines.

Melnyk said when information is requested from agencies about people receiving benefits, she is told it is not their job to verify immigration status or that they are not ICE (immigration enforcement) so she was concerned.

Troy asked for the names of specific agencies and she said she did not have the information, but would e-mail it to him. He said the county agencies follow all federal and state regulations with regards to giving out public funds.

- Bob Murphy of Wickliffe asked about details concerning bills paid by the commissioners. He was advised he could request and receive a breakdown of what was paid.

- A Painesville resident asked if the commissioners could help with a problem in the schools because Painesville seemed to need qualified math, English and science teachers.

Troy said the commissioners had no control over public education and he needed to speak with the school board. He said money was likely an issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss legal issues, a personnel interview and real estate.